

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01 RSR-01

FDRE-00 /104 W

----- 073534

P R 271530Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6777

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA PRIORITY

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO COMNAVBASE GUANTANAMO BAY CUBA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 1275

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, HA

SUBJECT: DETAILS OF US NAVY ASSISTANCE IN FIGHTING NATIONAL

PALACE ARMORY FIRE

REF: CINCLANT 261827Z JUL 73; CINCLANT P261825Z JUL 73

1. REFTEL, CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL, TRANSMITTED FROM COMNAVBASE GUANTANAMO TO CINCLANT AND CHINFO A DRAFT PRESS ARTICLE ON US NAVY ASSISTANCE IN FIGHTING THE NATIONAL PALACE ARMORY FIRE IN PORT-AU-PRINCE JULY 23 AND 24. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE IT WAS NEVER CLEARED FOR RELEASE AND IT IS TOO LATE NOW TO USE IT AS A PRESS RELEASE. HOWEVER IT CONTAINS INTERESTING INFORMATION ON THE DETAILS OF THE NAVY ASSISTANCE EFFORT WHICH I SHOULD LIKE TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE TOP GOH LEADERSHIP, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF USS LEAHY (DLG-16) EXPECTED AUGUST 11-13.

2. IF DEPARTMENT, SECDEF, AND CINCLANT CONCUR I PROPOSE TO SEND THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO FOREIGN SECRETARY RAYMOND AND TO MAKE COPIES AVAILABLE TO SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS:

QUOTE DEAR MR. SECRETARY, I THINK YOU MIGHT BE

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INTERESTED IN SOME OF THE DETAILS, WHICH I HAVE JUST

LEARNED, OF THE DESPATCH OF US NAVY FIREFIGHTERS FROM GUANTANAMO TO PORT-AU-PRINCE LAST MONDAY. WHEN THE EMBASSY'S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE REACHED GUANTANAMO BAY, THE NAVAL BASE AUTHORITIES RECALLED TO PORT THE USS LEAHY (WHICH WILL VISIT PORT-AU-PRINCE AUGUST 11-13) AND THE USS BEARY WHICH WERE SEVERAL MILES OUT TO SEA. PORTABLE FIRE PUMPS, LENGTHS OF HOSE AND COUPLINGS WERE TAKEN FROM THE SHIPS AND TOGETHER WITH OTHER EQUIPMENT FROM THE NAVAL BASE AND THE NAVAL AIR STATION WERE LOADED ON BOARD A C-118 AIRCRAFT. NINE FIREFIGHTING PERSONNEL INCLUDING EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL EXPERTS AND THE FIRE CHIEF OF THE NAVAL AIR STATION ACCOMPANIED THE EQUIPMENT AND WERE ABLE TO ASSIST THE HAITIAN FIREFIGHTERS IN EXTINGUISHING THE FIRE EARLY MONDAY AFTERNOON. END QUOTE.
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